

# 2020: Seeing the Devil Clearly

## Session 1 – Participant Handout

### CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do people today understand the reality of the devil, and what shapes their belief or disbelief in spiritual evil?
- What is your own perception of the devil and the reality of evil in the world?
- Do you think today's Catholic teaching gives enough attention to the devil and demons, considering how often the New Testament—and Jesus himself—speaks about them? Why or why not?

#### NOTES

### CHAPTER 2 – THE OBJECTION OF THE MODERN WORLD

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does today's cultural tendency to dismiss the devil as "primitive or superstitious" influence a person's faith and the way they live as a follower of Jesus?
- Have you personally seen young people drift toward secularism or view faith as just a story? How has this affected the way you help them encounter Jesus as someone real and present in their lives?
- In your own relationship with Jesus, how do you understand the reality of the devil and spiritual warfare?

#### NOTES

## CHAPTER 3 – OUR BELIEF IN THE VISIBLE & INVISIBLE

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

- Angels are their own species, and they have an intellect and free will, like human beings, but unlike human beings have no physical body. What are some common misperceptions about angels that people have?

### NOTES

- It's important to note here that people do NOT become angels when they die. Human beings and angelic beings are two separate species. Human beings in heaven become saints, not angels.
- Angels have superior intellects and superior wills in comparison to human beings. As the devil and demons are fallen angels, what makes them so dangerous is their superior intellect and will which have been corrupted by their sin.

## CHAPTER 4 – THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE DEVIL

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Christians believe the Bible is the Living Word of God, divinely inspired with God as its true author, and Scripture speaks nearly 100 times about the devil—using names like “Satan,” “devil,” “accuser,” “prince of lies,” and “ruler of this world.”

- How does knowing the devil is real influence the way you turn to Jesus for protection and clarity when you feel tempted, discouraged, or spiritually attacked?
- When you consider the reality of spiritual warfare, what gives you hope in your relationship with Christ and His victory over evil?

### NOTES:

- **Important Clarification:** The presenter states that at the top of the hierarchy of angels are Archangels, “first in terms of rank and power.” This is incorrect. Archangels are *NOT*

the first in rank of the nine choirs (or orders) of angels, but the eighth, ranking just above angels, which is the lowest rank.

- St. Thomas Aquinas, in his *Summa Theologiae*, list the ranks for the order of angels as follows: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, & Angels.
- **Important Distinction:** Sometime Satan can be seen as the opposing force and counterpart to God. It is important to emphasize that Satan is NOT God's counterpart. God is supreme and has no equal. Satan is just a creature of the Creator and has no power or authority over God. St. Michael the Archangel would be a more appropriate counterpart to Satan.

## CHAPTER 5 – ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What happens in your heart when you pray the St. Michael Prayer, and how does it deepen your trust in Jesus as your protector?
- How does knowing Jesus has entrusted a guardian angel to you personally affect the way you see His love and care in your daily life?
- When have you sensed subtle guidance, protection, or clarity that might have been your guardian angel helping you stay close to Christ?

### NOTES

## CHAPTER 6 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 1

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

- When you find yourself confronted by evil—whether in temptation, fear, confusion, or spiritual struggle—how do you turn to Jesus for strength and protection? What role do the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the saints, and your guardian angel play in helping you respond with faith, courage, and trust?

### NOTES

## CHAPTER 7 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 2

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The devil often works subtly, drawing us away from God through pride, selfishness, or self-glorification. Where do you see this influence in your own life and in the lives of your students?
- Thinking of your students, when you see them succumbing to these subtle influences, how might you redirect their hearts back toward humility, truth, and love?

### NOTES

## ASSIGNMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR SESSION 2

### PRAYER:

Take additional time to contemplate and pray more fully on the reflection questions from Lectio Divina handout for Session 1.

### ACTION:

1. Complete the Living Word activity from the Lectio Divina during the week.
2. Write a brief paragraph or two on what touched your heart the most from this week's presentation and why it affected you as it did? Come prepared to share your thoughts next week.

### PREPARE:

Bring the handout and Lectio Divina for Session 2 to class.

## CLOSING PRAYER

St. Michael the archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our protection  
against the wickedness and snares of the devil.  
May god rebuke him,  
we humbly pray;  
And do thou, o prince of the heavenly host,  
By the power of god,  
Cast into hell satan and all the evil spirits  
Who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.